



St. Michael Fly Fishers Rockbourne

Match Report September 2020

DAY CAPTAINS REPORT

First of all, I hope everyone enjoyed the club's first visit to Rockbourne in 15 years or so. I've been suggesting Rockbourne as an option for a little while, so it was finally good to go there.

I was first introduced to Rockbourne four or five years ago and have been a regular there for the past season or so. Above anything else I just love the setting, such a beautiful place to spend time. Gin clear lakes (usually) set amongst mature trees and well-maintained banksides, supporting a rich abundance of insect and other wildlife (who saw the kingfishers?). Covid has brought some changes to the way we live, and perhaps now more than ever I welcome the chance to leave the grey of suburbia and spend a few hours in somewhere as stunning as Rockbourne.

A total of 18 members, and one guest made the trip down to the New Forest. Rockbourne is probably the farthest venue for the majority of us, well done to everyone for getting down in good time. Although temperatures had dropped over the previous couple of days following a prolonged spell of warm weather, the skies were clear, with just a bit of breeze to remind us of a changing front. After tackling up, bacon butties and coffee, lots were drawn to determine which of the six lakes we would start on. Rules were simple, catch one and move on.

The fishing was quite tough, I have to say. At the beginning of the day Simeon, the fishery manager, had recommended targeting fish and changing flies regularly. As a season ticket holder, and particularly during the cooler months, I have had reasonable success fishing to open water and likely spots.

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End of day results

David Broome: Top individual weight of 25lb 2oz, also with the biggest fish of the day at 14lb 6oz David won a large box of flies

Martin Eastment: A fish of 11lbs 6oz took the prize of a pair of snips for the 2nd biggest fish as Mr Broome could not take two prizes.

Lynne Haskins: Secret weight won £10.00

RAFFLE

Bob Foulton: Day ticket to Rockbourne

Martin Eastment: £30.00 toward travel cost

Malcolm Greenhalgh: a fly line

Iain Laws & Brian Maguire: Both won a bottle of wine

Total No of anglers 19 Total number of fish caught 45

DAY CAPTAINS REPORT Continued

But true to Simeon's advice, Saturday was definitely more a day for presenting a fly to a target fish. Many of the regulars to Rockbourne barely cast a line, instead preferring to mooch around the lake edges, seeking out the bigger fish, and then dropping a fly on the nose of their target fish until they get a reaction, sometimes persisting for hours. Not everyone's cup of tea, but an approach that can be very effective. Martyn Williams is one such regular that seems to have a lot of success doing this, check out his videos on YouTube. He even sells his own collection of stalking bugs, including some Rockbourne specials!

The best bag of the day including best fish fell to Dave Broome. Dave had already managed to pick up one of the sought after Spartics from Bridge before moving onto Alder. After spotting three doubles nestling in the corner adjacent to Bridge, Dave initially persisted with a cats whisker before changing to a green damsel immediately triggering a reaction from one of the big fish. And what a fish, a stonking 14.06 Rainbow! After catching another two fish in the afternoon Dave completed his four fish ticket, comfortably making top weight. Congratulations also to Martin Eastment who managed to pick up the second double of the day, another fine Rainbow of 11.06.

And well done to all those who managed to pick up three and four fish – it was definitely one of the more challenging days I have experienced at Rockbourne. The conditions certainly called for a little more craft than is sometimes the case. Despite being a regular I nevertheless picked up a few learning points.

That said, the overwhelming impression was one of a very enjoyable day, with the majority expressing a wish to return. Personally I can't wait, I love the place.

Best regards

Steve Argent.

Day Captain.



A Little Tip

Find the depth at which the fish are holding. This will change according to the light levels, water temperature, wind levels and insect hatches, so use this countdown method throughout your day.

After you've cast your flies, give the line a pull to straighten it out and ensure you'll feel any takes, and then countdown down for 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 seconds to allow your flies to sink through the depths. With each consecutive cast, use a slightly longer countdown before you commence your retrieve to help you find the depth at which the fish are holding.

Start near the surface and work down. Trout look upwards for food. Start with a five second count, then try 10, 15, 20 and 25 until you get some action.

SECRETARYS REPORT

It was good to see so many of you at Rockbourne, this just our third outing of the season, which due to Covid 19 has severely affected our plans for this year. Steve Argent's report as Day Captain gives you all the details.

I just want to re-confirm, subject to any further Government restrictions, the outings for the rest of the year.

Should anyone still like to go fishing this month I have reserved 6 boats at Farmoor for Saturday 24th October, please let me know ASAP if you would like to come so I can finalise boat numbers.

We have Lechlade booked on Sat 14th November with bacon, and sausage rolls served outdoors, and Avon Springs on Sat 12th Dec. I will be advising separately how we will deal with our AGM which will take place at Avon Springs, but in a modified form.

I look forward to seeing you all at some or all of these venues.

Keep safe, and well.

Kindest Regards

Michael Littlestone Hon Secretary





To see all the photos of the day in more detail visit the SMFF web site.